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(54) MANUFACTURE OF ULTRA-LOW-MOLECULAR WEIGHT POLYVINYL
ALCOHOL

(57)Abstract:

PURPOSE: To produce an ultra-low-molecular weight PVA having a uniform molecular weight distribution with industrial advantage, by polymerizing a vinyl acetate monomer in a solvent having a chain transfer constant C_s in a specified range with the monomer charged successively, and saponifying the resulting PVAc.

CONSTITUTION: In a process of polymerizing a vinyl acetate monomer in a solvent of which chain transfer constants C_s is 2×10^{-4} to 200×10^{-4} at the polymerization temperature (e.g., isopropanol, methyl ethyl ketone, etc.), and saponifying the resulting PVAc, the above polymerization is carried out with the vinyl acetate monomer charged successively in accordance with the polymerization rate over the main polymerization period. Thus, an ultra-low-molecular weight PVA having a uniform molecular weight distribution can be produced with industrial advantage by keeping a substantial balance between the amount of the vinyl acetate monomer to be consumed and that of the vinyl acetate monomer to be added.

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